

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly cancel claims 6 and 8, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 7 and 9 as shown in the following claim listing:

1. (currently amended) A recording apparatus for recording an information on a recordable optical record carrier (2) by irradiation of a light beam onto said record carrier (2) for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information recording direction (t), comprising:

- a light source (8) for generating a light beam,
- optical means (3-7) for irradiating said light beam onto said record carrier (2),

wherein said optical means comprise means (4) for reducing the numerical aperture of said optical means in the direction orthogonal to the information recording direction (t) during recording of information to obtain a light beam having a substantial oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction (t) compared to the direction (r) orthogonal thereto; and

- said means for reducing the numerical aperture comprise switchable means, and control means are provided for controlling said switchable means by switching said switchable means on or off by bringing said switchable means into a light path from the light source to the record carrier during recording.

2. (original) A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said optical means (3-7) are adapted for increasing the numerical aperture of said optical means in the information recording direction (t) during recording of information.

3. (original) A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means (4) for reducing the numerical aperture comprise a switchable non-round, in particular oval, aperture in the light path from the light source (8) to said record carrier (2) during recording.

4. (original) A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the short axis of said aperture is by a factor of 0.7 to 0.99 shorter than the long axis.

5. (original) A recording apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said means for reducing the numerical aperture comprise a switchable beam-shaper (14) in the light path from the light source (8) to said record carrier (2) during recording to obtain a reduced rim-intensity of the light beam in the direction (r) orthogonal to the information recording direction.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A method of recording an information on a recordable optical record carrier (2) by irradiation of a light beam through optical means (3-7) onto said record carrier (2) for forming marks and lands representing said information along an information recording direction (t), wherein the numerical aperture of said optical means (4) is reduced in the direction (r) orthogonal to the information recording direction (t) during recording of information to obtain a light beam having a substantially oval spot profile having a shorter axis in the information recording direction (t) compared to the direction (r) orthogonal thereto—; the numerical aperture being switchably

reduced by bringing switchable means into a light path of the light beam during recording to turn said switchable means on or off.

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) Computer program comprising computer program means for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 8 7 when said computer program is run on a computer.